



Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Assembly Bill 588 - Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulation

Testimony by Jim Boullion, Director of Government Affairs

Mr. Chairman and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jim Boullion, Director of Government Affairs for RENEW Wisconsin. We are a not-for-profit organization that works to advance renewable energy and clean energy technologies like electric vehicles.

AB 588 would clarify that non-utility entities may sell electricity for electric vehicles (EV's) without violating the State utility laws. **RENEW Wisconsin supports that goal, and that part of this legislation.** Currently, non-utility owned EV charging stations are charging by the minute, not the amount of energy delivered. That results in the owners of slower charging vehicles paying more for energy than the owners of fast charging vehicles, which we feel should be corrected.

While the bill would solve one problem, it is creating another. As drafted, this proposal would prohibit anyone from charging a fee if any non-utility-generated energy is provided through a non-utility-owned/operated EV station. **RENEW Wisconsin opposes this provision** as it will significantly limit the use of solar+storage EV charging equipment in Wisconsin.

This is an important emerging technology that can make EV charging stations practical and affordable in areas of the state where the local utility infrastructure is inadequate, it is too costly to upgrade or just to keep energy costs down. What are the benefits of solar+storage EV charging stations?

- **Facilitates EV chargers in rural areas.** Allows the placement of EV chargers in locations that have inadequate power infrastructure. Rural areas like State parks, tourist areas and small towns with lower capacity grid infrastructure could host EV chargers that otherwise would not exist.
- **Reduces infrastructure cost.** If there is insufficient energy capacity at any location, a solar+storage system can sometimes be less costly than upgrading the power lines and infrastructure.
- **Limits demand charge spikes.** Some businesses that would like to host EV chargers are at risk of large spikes in energy demand over short periods of time which could create much higher peak demand charges on their utility bill. Solar+storage can reduce this problem, while also reducing the need for costly peak demand generators on the grid, saving all ratepayers money. EnTech installed just such a system at Bergstrom Ford in Neenah after John Bergstrom discovered after plugging in some of his new EV's that "Their electric bill was almost 3 times what a normal bill would be."
- **Increases resilience and safety.** When the power grid goes down for any reason, solar+storage EV chargers can be a critical emergency resource, not only for the emergency vehicles and first responders who switch to electric vehicles, but for the general public as well.

RENEW Wisconsin urges you to support updating Wisconsin's electric vehicle charging station laws. We also urge you to remove the limitations on host generated energy that has so many potential benefits for electric vehicle drivers, charging stations owners and the resilience of Wisconsin's energy grid.